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23 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR Rear Admiral Werner

SUBJECT: System for Classification of COMINT to and within FACINT's
Command (VOCINT 32/2)

PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

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With representatives of NSA (Dr. R. H. Shaw and Mr. C. C. Coffey) on 23 May 1952 but only on the basis of agreeing upon a recommendation for a system to be instituted only if and when a policy decision had been reached between USGCB and LSICB on the question of providing a common US-UK COMINT cryptographic system for use in passes like 2000 the classification of COMINT to and within FACINT's command (par. 6-7, VOCINT 32/2).

2. It was agreed that the low anticipated volume of traffic and the great need for security indicated a recommendation that the most appropriate system initially to be instituted could be 11 letter one-time pads (GIASS). These pads could be provided either by the US or UK.

3. It is recommended that LSICB be notified of this informal discussion and receive no formal recommendations.

4. Per your own information, it was stated that if the pad system were installed and if the traffic load should become so great as to require introduction of a machine system, the conference thought it would be feasible to provide the limited number of commands concerned with British TypeX Mark 22 machines, to be used in simple procedure. It was the case of the meeting that the offer should not be made known to the USGCB Security Command or to NSA, but should be held in reserve by NSA and GCSB against the possibility that the one-time pad system, once introduced, might prove inadequate for the traffic load.

WILLIAM F. PATRICK
Consultant

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